

**History 4430**  
**The Vietnam War**  
Fall 2016

**Professor:** Steve Goodson **Place and Time:** Pafford 206, MW 3:30-4:45  
**Office:** TLC 3224 **Phone:** (678) 839-6042 **Department Phone:** (678) 839-6508  
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**Office Hours:** MW 12:30-1:30; TTH 1:30-5:30; or by appointment.

**Course Description and Goals:** The Vietnam War is one of the most traumatic and controversial events in American history. This course will introduce students to the historical background of the war, the reasons for U.S. entry into the war, the history of the war itself, the experiences of the Americans who took part in the war, and the lasting legacy of the war in the United States. Assignments will allow students to sharpen their writing, interpretive, and research skills.

**Exams:** There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. Exam questions will be drawn from the assigned readings, from class discussions, from lectures, and from any other material (films, music, handouts, etc.) presented in class. The final exam will not be cumulative. Make-up exams will be given only if the student provides a written doctor's excuse, and it is the student's responsibility to let me know in advance if he or she will have to miss an exam.

**Class Participation:** History is a reading-intensive discipline. Nothing is more crucial to a good historian than the ability to read carefully, thoroughly, and critically. In order to be prepared and to participate in discussions, students will need to do the required reading *in advance* of each class session. In order to encourage students to do the reading, there may be short in-class writing assignments as well as unannounced quizzes. Attendance will be taken daily and a student's attendance record will play a significant role in determining his or her final grade. Students are expected to arrive in class on time and to remain until class is ended. Inappropriate classroom behavior will *severely* damage a student's final grade. Please silence cell phones and do not use them during class.

**Paper Assignments:** Each student will be required to prepare three-to-four-page papers on the three books we will be reading this semester. In addition, each student will write an end-of-term paper (seven to nine pages). All paper assignments must be submitted in order for a student to pass the class. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course. Students will need to submit each assigned paper to the Drop Box on CourseDen and provide the professor with a hard copy.

**Evaluation:** Each exam will account for 25% of the final grade, the three book papers for a total of 20%, the final paper for 20%, and class participation for 10%.

**Additional Information on UWG Policies:**

[http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common\\_Language\\_for\\_Course\\_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)

**Required Books:**

James S. Olson and Randy Roberts, *Where the Domino Fell: America and Vietnam, 1945-2010*  
Philip Caputo, *A Rumor of War*  
Lynda Van Devanter, *Home Before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam*  
Wallace Terry, *Bloods: Black Veterans of the Vietnam War: An Oral History*

Please be aware that some of the material we will be reading and viewing this semester will be disturbing.

**Tentative Class Schedule and Required Reading:**

Aug. 15: Preface, Prologue, and Chapter 1: Eternal War: The Vietnamese Heritage

Aug. 17-22: Chapter 2: The First Indochina War, 1945-1954

Aug. 24-29: Chapter 3; The Making of a Quagmire, 1854-1960

Aug. 31-Sept. 7: Chapter 4: The New Frontier in Vietnam, 1961-1963

Sept. 12-14: Chapter 5: Planning a Tragedy, 1963-1965

Sept. 19: *A Rumor of War*

Sept. 21-26: Chapter 6: Into the Abyss, 1965-1966

Sept. 28: **Midterm**

Oct. 3-5: Chapter 7: The Mirage of Progress, 1966-1967

Oct. 10-12: No Reading

Oct. 17: *Home Before Daylight*

Oct. 19-24: Chapter 8: Tet and the Year of the Monkey, 1968

Oct. 26-31: Chapter 9: The Beginning of the End

Nov. 2: No Reading

Nov. 7: *Bloods*

Nov. 9-14: Chapter 10: The Fall of South Vietnam, 1970-1975

Nov. 16: Chapter 11: Distorted Images, Missed Opportunities, 1975-1995

Nov. 28: No Reading

Nov. 30: **Final Papers Due**

Dec. 7: **Final Exam** (2:00-4:00)